



PSC NEWS

Missouri Public Service Commission

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FY-06-18

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AUGUST 17, 2005

MEDIA REMINDER

PSC TO HOLD LOCAL PUBLIC HEARINGS IN ST. LOUIS IN LACLEDE GAS COMPANY RATE CASE

JEFFERSON CITY---The Missouri Public Service Commission will hold local public hearings in **St. Louis** on **August 24, 2005**, to receive customer comment on a natural gas rate case filed by Laclede Gas Company. Local public hearings also give customers an opportunity to bring any service related problems to the Commission's attention.

The local public hearing schedule appears below:

**Joseph P. Cosand Center
5th Floor Boardroom
300 South Broadway
St. Louis
Hearing begins at 12:00 pm***

**Cooperating School Districts
Large Conference Room
1460 Craig Road
St. Louis
Hearing begins at 7:00 pm****

*There will be an informal question and answer session from 11:30 am until 12:00 pm at the afternoon hearing at the Joseph P. Cosand Center with the local public hearing starting at 12:00 pm. The hearing will continue until 3:00 pm or until all persons present have had an opportunity to speak, whichever is sooner.

**There will be an informal question and answer session from 6:30 pm until 7:00 pm at the evening hearing at the Cooperating School Districts with the local public hearing starting at 7:00 pm. The hearing will continue until 9:00 pm or until all persons present have had an opportunity to speak, whichever is sooner.

On July 25, 2005, Laclede Gas Company, with the consent of other parties in the rate case, filed its recommendation for local public hearings.

On August 1, 2005, the PSC Staff, on behalf of all parties in the case, filed to suspend the formal hearing schedule in this rate case (scheduled to start on October 3, 2005). The parties requested that the Commission hold the local public hearings as scheduled. The parties stated that subject to the comments of the public at the local public hearings, they may file an agreement in this rate case on or before August 26, 2005.

Laclede's rate case request involves the gas company's non-gas costs (costs related to providing natural gas service to its customers). The proposal would increase rates for the average residential customer. The cost of natural gas from wholesale suppliers is not regulated by the Public Service Commission and is not part of this rate case.

Laclede Gas Company serves approximately 631,000 natural gas customers in the City of St. Louis as well as the Missouri counties of St. Louis, St. Charles, Butler, Iron, Franklin, Jefferson, Madison, St. Francois and Ste. Genevieve.